

Response to the Independent on the Andargachew Tsege case

6th February 2014

Response to the Independent article titled, [Ethiopia refuses to allow access to imprisoned British citizen](#), published on 9th February 2015.

The Ambassador explained in detail the position of the Ethiopian government on the issue and further underlined that the matter should be left to the bilateral consultation mechanism.

The Ambassador also advised the honourable parliamentarians that there was no need for them to go to Ethiopia as the case is being properly handled by the judiciary in accordance with the national law of Ethiopia and applicable international law to which Ethiopia is a party.

The Ambassador re-iterated that Ethiopia has excellent relations with the United Kingdom and works diligently to take these relations to greater heights by focussing on issues of national, regional and global significance.

He said individual court cases such as that of Mr Andargachew Tsege, are better left to the courts and the judicial system.

The basic principles governing the law in Ethiopia are very clear. No one, from inside or outside the country, is allowed to be above the law. Ethiopians have fought very hard to assure the supremacy of the law and the independence of the judiciary. Any attempt to circumvent these principles is tantamount to undermining Ethiopia's judicial process and fledgling democracy.

On the government side, to trigger a process which directly or indirectly compromises the independence of the judiciary would be tantamount to an act of *sub judice*.

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